

# THE PALATKA NEWS

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Wm. A. RUSSELL, Editor.

## DO WE NEED A NEW CHARTER?

Next Tuesday the qualified voters of Palatka will be called upon to vote for or against a new city charter.

This charter, or constitution, has been provided us by a charter board, regularly elected, the members of which, so far as The News can learn, approve the document and desire the people to ratify their judgment.

There are a few things that should be considered before one makes up his mind to vote for the charter.

In the first place it had its origin in no popular demand. Early in the summer, when the weather was hot and people naturally demanded a surcease from political worry and the right to smoke the pipe of peace unhindered by designs of men who make politics and the science of government a study, a certain member of the city council made a discovery.

He found that the city of Palatka, sometimes referred to as "The Gem City," was actually passing rapidly along through the Christian era without a charter, its common people ignorant of their perilous condition. He sought to arouse them from their lethargy. They failed to respond.

He took the matter before the city council and by repeatedly jabbing it in the ribs succeeded in arousing that body sufficiently from its coma to discern as through a glass, darkly, the peril to which the city was being daily subjected. There was no excitement such as a body of aldermen would naturally experience on being caught unawares in a trap. Nothing of the kind. However, under pressure the council did consent to the calling of an election to name a charter board.

The election was regularly called, several gentlemen who allowed themselves to be impressed with the seriousness of the situation, "permitted" their names to go on the ticket as members of the charter board. At the proper time a few people voted for them. There were no others to vote for. They were elected.

This board held regular and frequent meetings to which the people were invited. They (the people) failed to respond; they didn't even send their regrets.

In the course of time the charter was completed. Without warrant in law, the charter board had the finished document printed in the Morning Post at an expense to the tax payers of \$350 more than the city would have had to pay had the work been let out in the regular way by competitive bid.

The document has been published and we presume it has been read.

Next Tuesday the people will express their opinion.

But to go back to consideration number one. Palatka is not charterless. The News has this on the authority of one of the city attorney's. Back in 1888 the Supreme Court did spoil the face of the 1887 charter by declaring unconstitutional certain features of the document.

But the legislature of 1891 gave us a new charter, and we have been gliding along very nicely on it ever since.

True our 1891 charter is a bit old-fashioned; it doesn't provide for a government by commission, possibly for the reason that the commissioner had not then been born into the world of municipal politics. He is a foundingling that was left on the door-step of Mr. Autoerney by some one not in accord with the old-time "falacy" that "a government of, by and for the people," was a constant menace to all who believed in the divine right of the few wise ones to rule.

Under the provisions of the proposed charter the people will still have the power to elect a mayor and a city council. The council will contain six members, two from each ward. But there will be but three wards, so arranged as to run from one end of the city to the other, mixing the races into a political salmagundi such as has not been in vogue since the voting days of reconstruction.

By this arrangement of the wards the negro from city politics and make impossible the election of Elder Robinson and "Sport de motion" Adams.

A prominent attorney of the city, however, states that by the proposed system, it is not only possible but among the hidden dangers that four of the proposed aldermen may be black, whereas under the present system there can be but two out of a possible 14.

The councilmen elect the commis-

sioners and they would run the city, under the proposed charter. They might run it to suit you, and then again they might not. If they did not, you could kick, but that is all you could do. The commissioners would still run it. There is no provision for a recall of councilmen or commissioners.

The council, under the proposed charter, would have power to grant franchises, all in one night. Under the present form they must be laid over between readings so that the people can discuss them for several weeks before final passage. "Every ordinance," says the proposed charter, "shall be read by sections at three several meetings." These three SEVERAL MEETINGS could all be held in one night. That's some different than THREE REGULAR MEETINGS.

The demand of the times is for a system of government that shall come nearer to the people. The proposed charter would take their government further from the people of Palatka.

Thoughtful men who have studied the proposed charter are pretty generally united in the opinion that while the city might be run smoothly and honestly under it, that it offers too many temptations for the arbitrary abuse of power, and that the people would have no redress until it was everlastingly too late.

There is but one safe recommendation open to The News, and that is that the people of Palatka keep the limited powers they now have. By adopting the proposed charter they would delegate these powers, and their delegates would re-delegate them to an arbitrary board of Commissioners who could, if so minded, tell you to "go chase yourself."

There is no need, however, for the people to worry; all they NEED TO DO IS VOTE. These votes will do the rest.

Public sentiment has already doomed the charter. But public sentiment has no other form of expression in a matter of this kind except that afforded by the voting booth.

News would not be understood as casting any reflections on the men who constructed the charter; the chances are they now see its faults as well as you. Had these been pointed out before the work was finished, it is possible they might have been remedied and great expense saved the city.

Municipal comatosity has already cost Palatka nearly a thousand dollars on this charter matter. Throw a good bye kiss to the money and cut further expense by voting "NO."

'Tis said that the Times-Union will support Farris for governor. Poor Farris!

Ion L. Farris of Jacksonville, a candidate for governor, has adopted as his campaign slogan, "Back to Broward." What?

Johnny J. Jones is going to buy a home and squat in Orlando with his circus during the closed season for circuses. Johnny has an elephant and a kangaroo, all the way from Timbuctoo, who raises a h-l of a hullabaloo in any town they buckle to.

President Wilson has been invited to attend the annual meeting of the Florida Press Association in Kissimmee, April 13-15, and the Florida delegation in Congress is going to wait on his excellency in a day or two and try and get him to accept the invitation. The Press Association had Vice President and Mrs. Marshall as its guests two year ago; now we can be contented with nothing short of the big cheese.

The Security League held a meeting in Pittsburg, Pa., last week. The league is engaged in building up a sentiment in the country for preparedness. At the Pittsburg meeting there were several slams at Mr. Bryan, who is leading a fight against the league's program. Most of the members of the Security League are engaged in the business of building armor plate and munitions of war, and they are intensely patriotic whenever there is any promise of securing legislation in Congress calculated to boost their business.

The United States is already making annual appropriations of about \$250,000,000 for the army and navy. Mr. Bryan seems to think this enough. He is simply opposed to increasing this appropriation to \$500,000,000, or to \$750,000,000 per annum, as advocated by the Security League and the Navy League, respectively. Mr. Bryan seems to think that if we prepare for war we will be disappointed if it doesn't come though we will do our full share in bringing it about; that if it doesn't come we will have all our expense for nothing, and that if it does come we will find, because of the constant improvements being made in ship and fighting machines, that we will have a larger amount of junk on hand at the opening than we can well afford.

The San Francisco New Age of July 11th, 1875, contained the following editorial which in the light of subsequent events, can be considered as somewhat in the nature of prophecy. It shows that the menace of militarism was felt, even in that day:

"Large standing armies are a direct cause of war. Europe is now in a state of peace, but there are over 3,000,000 men under arms—a standing menace to the lives, the property and the highest interests of the entire people. Any three of the great Powers of the world could by combination force all other nations to abandon war and submit all matters of difference to peaceful arbitration.

"This will yet be done. An international conference is to be held at The Hague in September which it is hoped will result in something tending to this result. 'It is probable, however, that the worm will have to become surfeited with blood first by one great conflict.'"

Semi-Tropic Florida, the Development Year Book issued annually by the Tampa Morning Tribune, made its appearance this week and is bigger and better than ever. It is a magazine of 145 pages filled with information and illustrations concerning central and south Florida, and being a work of art should have the great circulation which it is bound to get through the efforts of the Tribune. It has taken time and a lot of money to secure the material for this magazine so much time and money that it is doubtful if the publishers ever get a half of its cost back, but they have the satisfaction of having performed an immense amount of good for those sections of Florida represented. No other Florida newspaper would dare undertake the gigantic job which the Tribune Company has accomplished in this book.

Members of New York's Four Hundred now dwelling in idleness at Palm Beach and anxious for something new, are to be entertained shortly by a Seminole "Sun Dance," in which Prince Tony Tommie and Princess Annie Tommie are to be principals. No protection whatever seems to have been provided for these scions of noble blood, and with the view of preventing their annexation by these known worshippers of royalty. First thing we know Florida will lose both Prince Tony and Princess Annie. The Palm Beach News of the 18th has a first page picture of Princess Annie. She is seen squatting on the ground scratching a flea bite on her knee. She has a look of supreme, haughty indifference. Her bare feet are covered with Natal grass and from her waist up she wears a crazy quilt cut on the bias. The princess wears her hair banged in front and there is a suspicion of a switch surmounting her thatched roof. She is a first cousin of Charlie Dirtyshirt, whom reports indicate is having a serious time in raising the necessary money to quench his thirst under the Davis law.

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\* WHAT LEADING STATE  
\* EDITORS ARE SAYING.  
\* \*\*\*\*\*  
\* Camphor Trees as Mosquito Exterminators—

Pensacola Journal: In making a campaign against mosquitoes in Pensacola, the fact may well be borne in mind that, while it is of the utmost importance that the breeding places of the mosquitoes be destroyed, there are others means at hand which will help render the mosquito less a menace to summer comfort.

It is claimed by many who have these trees planted on their grounds and surrounding their premises, that the camphor tree is an exterminator of mosquitoes, in-so-far as the effect it has of freeing from these insects the neighborhood in which these trees are planted.

Each year sees an increasing number of these trees planted in Pensacola, and if it be true, and the fact seems to be well established, that the mosquitoes will not remain in the vicinity of the camphor tree, there is every reason to increase the number planted to a very large extent.

The camphor tree is one of the most symmetrical, cleanest, most beautiful trees grown in Florida, and those interested in mosquito extermination might find in its planting a practical way to reach some good results.

## Good Legislators—

Tampa Tribune: This year, the people of Florida will elect a new House of Representatives and about half of the members of the Senate, to compose the Legislature of 1917.

It is highly important that good selections be made for these offices.

The job of member of the Legislature is usually a thankless one and, for this reason, it is exceedingly difficult to persuade men of large affairs to stand for election. Some very able men have been sent to the Florida Legislature and they have generally come out of it with a determination never again to subject themselves to the pains and penalties of the arduous task. That these able men have usually been a small minority and thus unable to carry through important legislative reforms makes the position all the more unsatisfactory.

The Tribune believes that a con-

## WHO STARTED THE EUROPEAN RUMPUS?

Teddy Told Kaiser Bill he  
Had Best Army in the  
World.

An Associated Press dispatch from New York on Wednesday says:

As to the cause of the war, the Army and Navy Journal tells the following story as having been related in a debate before the City Club of Hartford, Conn.:

"Who caused the war? That is a long story. Richard Harding Davis went to Europe to find out—that was his business as a reporter. He went into Buckingham palace and said:

"Now, George, on the level, as between two friends, who caused this rumpus?"

"Ah, well—I don't know; you go and ask Nick."

"So Davis went to Petrograd and said:

"Now, Nick who was it?" and Nick said 'I don't know; you better go and ask Bill.' So he went to Berlin, slapped Bill on the back and said: 'Bill old chap, who was it?'

"Teddy!"

"Teddy?"

"Yes. After he got through being president, he went to Africa to hunt for a while; then he went to Stockholm to get a peace prize and then he came over here and we fixed up a sham battle for him. When the battle was over he said to me: 'Bill, that's a bully army you've got; you can lick any army in the world.' Now, how was I to know that he was a liar?"

Oh, Well!  
"I see a man was arrested last night for taking notes at a lecture."

"You don't mean it?"

"Yes; they were banknotes, and he took them out of another man's pocket."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

certed effort on the part of the thoughtful Democrats of the State to induce good men to run for the Legislature will bear excellent results. About the most effective way to influence such men to make the sacrifice is to point out to them the very important questions that must be decided at the next session and to impress upon them that their duty to their State demands their service in the solution of these momentous issues. The proper solution of great State problems ought to furnish sufficient inspiration to bring out some of our best material. It is really a call to patriotism and the good citizen should place the welfare of his State above the personal feeling that dissuades him from the step.

The Tribune hopes that all the newspapers of the State will get together in the effort to make the next Legislature the best one that has ever been elected in Florida. Each paper may create sentiment in its own community and county and we believe the results will be vastly beneficial.

## May Wish He Hadn't—

Arcadia Enterprise: The editor of the Florida Grower is a poor loser. Although the Arcadia Enterprise produced conclusive proof that the Grower did A. B. Willford of Arcadia, a great injustice, the Grower had not the manhood to either correct or acknowledge its error. The South Florida press has always been friendly to the Florida Citrus Exchange and the editors have seen their friends knocked and vilified until "patience ceases to be a virtue," and unless the Exchange can call the Grower off it need not count on a continuation of this friendship.—Wauchula Advocate.

Mr. Willford informs us that his attorneys have the matter in hand and will probably test the courts to see whether or not the Grower has a special permit to publish libelous matter with the malicious intention of injuring him and his business because he happens to be a competitor of the Exchange. The Grower and its correspondent may both "wish they hadn't" before the incident is finally closed.

## William Jennings Bryan—

Orlando Reporter-Star: There was a time when Mr. Bryan was much more of a novelty than he is today. But he is an exception to the rule that familiarity breeds contempt. He is Orlando's guest today, and the people are no less interested in him because he is better known to them now than he was a few years ago. They know he is great because those who disagree with him most vehemently acknowledge their respect for him; the few who do not are not capable of commanding respect for their own opinions.

## It Was A Great Fair—

Orlando Reporter-Star: The fair closes tonight, and it is agreed among those who have watched the growth of the fair in Orlando that the event of 1916 was the greatest yet. In the line of progress this is just as it should be, but it does not always happen that things meet expectations. So many persons have contributed to the success of the fair that it would be well nigh impossible to make up a list of all who deserve mention, so the most appropriate way of including in the list of immortals is to designate the officials of the fair association to represent not only the organization but the working forces as well, and indite our organ of praise to Pres. Seth Woodruff, et al. The Reporter-Star wishes to acknowledge thanks to A. D. James, publicity agent for valuable assistance in "covering" the fair, and to C. E. Howard, who preceded Mr. James, for much advance matter. The enterprise has been characterized by an unusual spirit of cooperation among the workers, and to this must be attributed no small part of the success which has been achieved.

## Bungalow Park

continues to excite admiration from all who have an ambition to OWN THEIR OWN HOME. Those pretty Bungalows look HOME-LIKE; they are home like. And they were easily acquired.

YOU CAN ACQUIRE ONE SIMILAR  
TO THEM—VERY EASILY.

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## POMONA NEWS.

Gus Smith of the Kissimmee region, spent last week with his mother and sisters.

Miss Nellie Keown of DeLand was a recent guest of her sister Mrs. C. A. Knowlton.

Miss Flora Irish came up from Orlando Saturday for a visit to Misses Alfreda and Francis Smith.

J. M. Tucker is now at work on the Wedentz house remodeling and making extensive improvements.

Arthur Smith of Sanford was the over Sunday guest of his sister, Mrs. C. L. Piplar.

The Zachary Lumber Co. has about completed arrangements for a tramroad crossing over the A. C. near the mill, which greatly facilitates getting the timber from the recently acquired Broward tract north of the lake.

Owing to the serious condition of Miss Leo Smith it was thought best to remove her to the hospital at Orlando Saturday. She was accompanied by Miss Nannie Smith who is a trained nurse at the hospital, and her friends hope for much improvement by the change.

The freight wreck near Satsuma was visited by most of the town's population during Saturday and Sunday.

Peter McCormack returned Friday from Maitland where he has been working for the past several weeks.

Mrs. Grace B. Cook went to St. Augustine Tuesday for a few days visit with friends.

Mrs. Fred Green arrived home Monday from Jacksonville where she spent the past week with relatives.

W. J. McCormack and family have moved to the Daytona vicinity, where Mr. McCormack will engage in the turpentine business.

Great excitement prevailed Saturday afternoon when a woods fire swept over the territory around the lake near Mr. Olmsteads, and very much endangered his home. Some of the ground had not been burned over for as many as twenty-five years, and the fire was tremendous for a number of hours. Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead desire to thank those who came to help when assistance was so much needed.

The V. I. A. supper Friday evening was a pronounced success socially and financially, and seldom have the ladies served supper to such a large number of people. Each number of the following program was enthusiastically received and applauded. Reading by Mrs. Hersey of Cambridge, Maine, a guest of the Wayside Inn at Sisco. Two songs by Miss Beulah Irish of Orlando. Miss Grace Wells and H. A. Ring readings, and then the comedy entitled "Sister Mason's," which was the crowning feature of the entertainment.

Chas. H. Beane of Boston, Mass., who is spending a few weeks in the south was a guest of the Middleton House for a number of days recently.

## INTERLACHEN NEWS.

The entertainment given last Friday evening by the Sunshine Society was one of the best of the season. As a curtain raiser a short skit entitled "A Rummage Sale" was very cleverly presented. The chief feature of the program was the play "A Double Deception," in which Miss Alice Bradstreet made a great hit as the "leading lady," her transformation from a young and exceedingly charming girl into an elderly, dominating spinster being perfectly achieved. Prof. L. W. Black as

Archibald Shillington, was fine, indeed each member of the cast served much praise. Several musical numbers were given during the evening, and after the conclusion of the program the floor was given to the young people played dancing games. The receipts from evening's entertainment will be used by the Sunshine Society in carrying on their work through the year.

Thomas Lee, the old Federal era who has been ill since the morning of January, passed away last morning at an early hour.

body of Mr. Lee was taken to Gainesville, where he was buried Saturday with all military honors by Lew Wallace Post No. 8 of the G. A. R., which he was a member.

Mrs. Evan Brown, of Bay St. L. I., was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Ewing several days last week.

Rev. W. W. Fowler and Mrs. Fowler were guests over the week end.

Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Jones, Sr., in St. Andrews church Sunday morning were conducted by Rev. Fowler.

Mrs. W. A. Thorburn and Mr. Robert Thorburn were entertaining the home of Mrs. E. T. Lancaster.

Palatka from Saturday to Monday. Jesse E. George reluctantly attended a pleasant winter vacation Monday and left on the early morning train for Newton Junction, N. Y. to resume his work.

Mrs. George and the other ladies of the house will follow later.

Ira Kephart, with his wife and children arrived last Friday from Pennsylvania to visit Mr. Kephart's parents and sister.

A large delegation went from Interlachen Tuesday to attend the annual Washington's Birthday picnic at the Mann homestead. Over one hundred people gathered to do honor to the memory of the Father of our Country, and the occasion was very pleasant for all. A bonfire dinner, well served, was followed by an informal program of address and music.

Miss Nora Fraser was a guest relative in Hollister Saturday Sunday.

## NASHUA NEWS.

Mr. Julien de Nazario and family are here visiting their relatives for a few days.

Miss Ruth Loveland spent Saturday with her parents, returning to school Monday. Mrs. Loveland's trip to Jacksonville with her family was a very successful one.

A large number of people this section visited the scene of the freight wreck on the Atlantic Line Saturday afternoon.

D. C. Maynard of New York, president of the Satsuma Club, here a few days last week looking after the interest of the company.

J. R. Davidson arrived Sunday from Connellsville, Pa. He will be several weeks with his brother, Davidson. Miss Marion Davidson's daughter, is also here.

Davidson has been spending a few weeks at Welaka with her husband and wife of Jacksonville, who is visiting there.

Mr. and Mrs. J. McN. Bards and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Wood of Boca Grande, Fla., arrived here Sunday.

Mr. Pix of Edgewater, N. J., accompanied by Julien de Nazario of Palatka, calling at Oakdale Sunday evening.

INCUBATORS.—Two second incubators for sale, standard practically new. Mann-Holmes Co., Palatka, Florida.